



The Arlington Advocate

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60 PAGES 3 SECTIONS

Low-cost homes disappearing fast

Housing issue worries officials

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS

STAFF WRITER

It's a conversation that takes place with increasing regularity in real estate offices across town.

A family that has lived in Arlington for years is now thinking about purchasing a home because their rent has outpaced their earnings. Surely they can get a deal by which their mortgage payment will be less than the \$1,500 they're paying in rent.

"We have to tell them to look in other communities, maybe Medford or Somerville. It is just not realistic to tell them anything else," said Laura Ford of Century 21 Adams.

With the economy is booming, the local housing market is dwindling. The median price of a home in Arlington jumped 12 percent last year.

In an effort to raise awareness and look for fresh ideas, the Housing Corporation of Arlington (HCA) hosted a meeting this month to address what members say is an under-publicized housing crisis.

More than 50 concerned people attended the meeting, including many non-profit organizations, town officials, bank representatives, and people who are having difficulty finding a place to call home in Arlington.

Though there is little that any individual can do about the high housing market, Selectman Charles Lyons did have some encouraging words.

Lyons submitted a warrant arti-



Todd and Lolana Morse are proud owners of a two-family home in Arlington, thanks in part to a workshop offered by the Housing Corporation of Arlington.

cle for the upcoming Town Meeting that seeks to bring all organizations and people concerned about affordable housing together to form one task force.

"Putting everyone in the same room will help make affordable housing a reality," said Lyons.

The committee would research and study all existing programs. Lyons said he hopes such a task force would be able to come up with a comprehensive, long-term plan.

The median price for a home in Arlington is now \$240,000, up from last year's \$212,000. Part of

the problem is that income has risen at the same rate. Housing officials estimate that median household income in Arlington has risen from \$60,000 to \$65,000, making it nearly impossible for the average family to afford a house in town.

The HCA estimates that a family needs a combined income of approximately \$80,000 to afford a \$257,000 home.

The crisis will affect the entire community, not just the families who are forced out or can't afford to buy or rent, said HCA past president Laura Wiener.

It is not that there are no programs to help low- and moderate-

STAFF PHOTO BY MARC VASCONCELLOS

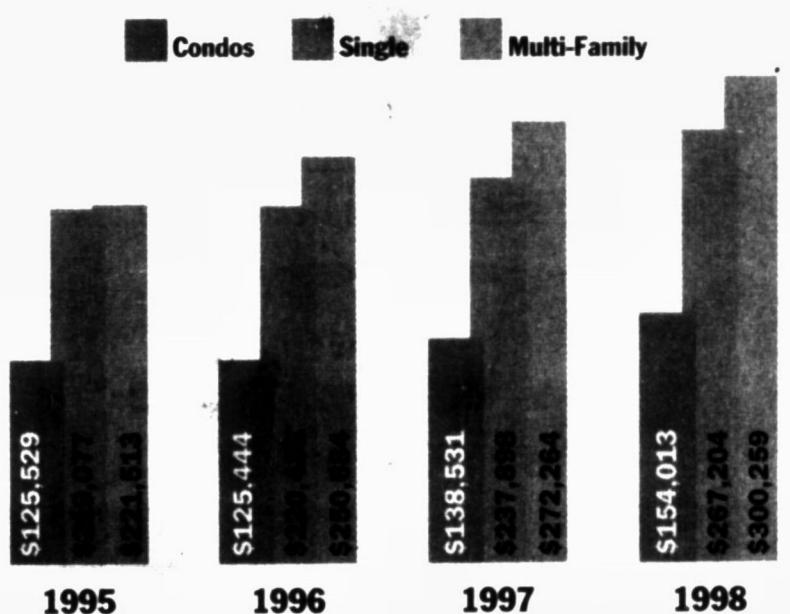
"Arlington is in transition from a working-class community to a higher-income professional community, and the level of diversity in the town is decreasing," said Weiner.

HCA Director Robin Zucker said that, without the housing development that some other communities like Boston and Chelsea have, Arlington cannot afford to fund housing initiatives. In addition, Arlington has little room for new development.

It is not that there are no programs to help low- and moderate-

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Average Cost of Homes in Arlington



Success stories now rare

Many families have gone through the Housing Corporation of Arlington's counseling program since its inception in 1989, but success stories are becoming hard to find.

Todd Morse and his wife, Lolana, are a rare exception. They attended HCA's six-week workshop and then found a two-family house for just over \$200,000.

"I didn't know much about buying a house. The course really familiarized me with the entire process — everything from comparing different loans to how to actually begin looking for a house," said Todd Morse.

The Morses had been renting in Belmont but knew they could not afford to buy a house there.

"Arlington was our first choice

because it's a nice town with good public transportation and a good school system," said Morse.

But they quickly realized that Arlington, too, was a reach.

"Just within the time we started looking, we saw the prices going up, even on rentals," said Morse.

Luckily, through the Housing Corporation, they became aware of a low interest rate, adjustable loan program through the Lexington Savings Bank.

"Because the interest rate was so low, the amount of money we qualified for went up and we were able to find a house," said Morse.

But Morse said he realized how lucky he and his wife were.

"It's really difficult to buy a house in Arlington with the real

■ SEE SUCCESS, PAGE 14

INSIDE



Town children enjoyed the first major snowstorm of the winter. See pictures on page 4.

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WORKING

Spengler steps down from board

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR

STAFF WRITER

'It's been a great privilege to serve on the board. It was a wonderful opportunity to get an overview of what's happening in the town and a great experience to work with such an excellent board.'

MARGARET SPENGLER

and it looks like I would have to," Spengler said. "I will miss the board more than they will miss me and I will be on any committee the members want to put me on."

Redevelopment Board chairman Nora Mann said she hopes Spengler will continue to give the board the benefit of her wisdom and perspective.

"When Peggy told us she was resigning, she said she'd keep helping us, and we certainly need her expertise," Mann said. "She provides a sense of history in terms of service to the town and

what it's like to work here for so many years."

Spengler would be embarrassed to hear people praise her so much, Mann said. "She's a remarkable person; she's broken tremendous barriers and is a role model."

Spengler moved to Arlington after World War II, and she and her husband raised five sons here. They have lived in the same house for 50 years, she said, and will always be active members of the Arlington community.

Spengler has served the town for years in many capacities. In 1973 she was the first woman elected to the Board of Selectmen. In addition, she has been a Town Meeting member for over 43 years, a library trustee and a member of the Permanent Town Building Committee.

Spengler was involved in the construction project for Robbins Library, said library director Maryellen Remmert-Loud. From 1987 to 1988, Spengler served as chairperson for the project's building campaign, helping to raise over \$600,000.

"She spearheaded the campaign on a strictly volunteer basis but

■ SEE SPENGLER, PAGE 9

Crime rate drops again

BY LINDSEY BLAIVAS

STAFF WRITER

According to 1998 crime statistics, Arlington was a safer town to live in last year than at any other time this decade. The crime rate in Arlington decreased 17 percent over the previous year, including drops in robberies and larcenies.

The annual crime rate is based on the number of major crimes committed within the town's limits during the year. Called Part I crimes, major crimes include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and vehicle theft. The biggest decrease in a category was for vehicle thefts, which dropped 40 percent, from 47 to 28, last year.

Director of Police Services Eugene Del Gaizo said the decrease is the result of many different factors.

"It is a substantial decrease, but the reason for the decrease is harder to come by," Del Gaizo said. "I think it is a combination of a more active police presence and the fact that the individuals who have previously plagued Arlington have now been apprehended."

In addition, Del Gaizo attributes the drop to technology innovations that prevent auto theft.

"The technical aspect of car ignitions and the purchase and

'I think full credit should be given to the men and women of the police department for their hard work. I think it is important to thank the police as citizens of Arlington.'

GEORGE LAITTE
E. ARLINGTON GOOD NEIGHBORS

use of car alarms and Lo Jack has really helped," said Del Gaizo.

Police have also suggested that citizens keep their cars parked off the street because a high percentage of the town's larceny cases involve radios and compact disc players taken from vehicles.

The crime figures dropped despite several high-profile crime stories during the year.

These included the case of Richard Bursey, an identified level-three sex offender, who was charged with two counts of indecent exposure and assault and battery on a child under 14 years old.

The most recent high-profile case — one that shocked the community — involved an 85-year-old woman burned and beaten.

■ SEE CRIMES, PAGE 9



Arlington High School senior Natalie Gill receives a recognition award at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Monday as Pearl Morrison looks on.

Residents pay tribute to Martin Luther King

BY BARBARA FORSTER

SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

A 17-year-old Arlington High School senior is this year's recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement.

Natalie Gill accepted the award Monday at the 11th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at First Baptist Church of Arlington.

"I was surprised and flattered," said Gill, who lives in Hyde Park and has participated in the METCO program since she was in elementary school at the Pierce school. "Ever since I came into the schools I had a mind set on making some kind of change, especially in multicultural issues. This award pulls it all together."

In addition to helping develop an African American Dance course, Gill also helped bring about the incorporation of Black History into the curriculum.

"It was amazing to see the proposal on paper," she said with a broad smile. "It's only an elective for next year, but..."

"Coming from Hyde Park is a long haul," the teenager told the

audience of approximately 300, "and I appreciate having a welcoming community to come to."

The award, given in recognition of Gill's efforts to encourage multiculturalism in the curriculum, also reflects the goal of the long-time town event, said Janice Baice, one of the organizers who serves on the Diversity Task Force of Vision 2020.

"The purpose of the holiday is to honor someone who contributed greatly to the American way of life," she said. "For a suburban community that is basically white, this event recognizes the contributions of someone from a different race and acknowledges that we are trying to be more open."

"The event symbolizes the commitment of the town to friendship and to being welcoming," added Arlington resident Fay Hom Lee, who is also the principal at Mozart Elementary School in Roslindale. "And certainly when we honor Martin Luther King it sends a message to the community and to our children."

For Arlington resident Susan Shear, the celebration was an

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MEETINGS

Jan. 21

The Arlington Conservation Commission, 7:30 p.m., DPW Conference Room, Town Hall Annex

Arlington Recycling Committee, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex

Council on Aging Board of Directors, 7:15 p.m., Senior Association Conference Room, first floor, Arlington Senior Center

Capital Planning Committee, 4 p.m., first floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Millennium Celebration, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Hearing

NEWS BRIEFS

Running for office

Elected officials who are running for reelection have until Monday, Feb. 1 and those running for the first time have until Thursday, Feb. 4 to pull papers for Town Election on March 27.

In the selectmen's race, Stephen Gilligan and Charles Lyons have pulled papers for reelection; Diane Mahon pulled papers on Jan. 15. Mahon, who ran for an open seat on the board two years ago, is active in a variety of community groups. She currently serves as co-chair of the Town Day Committee and is a board member of the Arlington Youth Alliance. She is a past president of the townwide PTO.

Mahon said she decided to run for the board because it needs "fresh ideas, new ways of looking at problems, dedication, commitment and a passion for respecting the rights of average citizens."

"I'm not afraid to stand up for what I believe in but I recognize the needs to listen to both old and new ideas," she said. If elected, Mahon said she will always treat each person with the respect they are due and work with "anyone willing to make this community an exciting, diverse place to live as we approach the new millennium and its challenges."

In the school committee race, Martin Thrope has pulled papers for reelection; Suzanne Baratta Owayda pulled papers on Tuesday. Owayda said early in the week that she has still not completely decided if she will run because she must consider the time commitment.

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The *Arlington Advocate* is located at:
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Main telephone number: (781) 643-7900

The *Arlington Advocate* is published weekly Thursday by Community Newspaper Company. Periodical postage paid at Concord, MA and additional mailing offices (CNC). Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Arlington Advocate*, Circulation Department, Box 9149, Framingham, MA 01701.

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Town gearing for Minuteman budget battle

Room, Town Hall

Jan. 26
Minuteman Technical School Committee, 7:30 p.m., Minuteman Technical School. Public hearing on the proposed budget.

Arlington School Committee, 7:30 p.m., sixth floor, Arlington High School

Jan. 27
Board of Youth Services, 7:30 p.m., Whittemore Robbins House, 670 Mass. Ave.

Jan. 28
Historic District Commission, Whittemore Robbins House, 670 Mass. Ave.

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

Armed with legislation that gives them new discretionary power, representatives from several member towns of Minuteman Regional High School, including Arlington, hope to create an awareness of the unfair way the school assigns the cost of educating the students.

Last year, Rep. James J. Marzilli, D-Arlington, wrote legislation which allows Minuteman's member towns to reject spending more than 150 percent of the foundation (what the state calculates under Education Reform as the minimum cost of educating a student). If six member towns decide to do so, Marzilli said, Fitzgerald will have to redo his budget.

Marzilli believes it is unconscionable that Arlington, which pays \$14,000 for each student it sends to Minuteman, is forced to also absorb the cost for students from non-member communities.

About 10 years ago, he said, the 16 member towns began having trouble sending enough students to fill Minuteman to capacity. At that time, the school entered CHOICE and Chapter 74 programs which allow students from outside districts to attend the school but at a cost which is well below what it takes to educate them. CHOICE students are charged \$5000; Chapter 74 students are charged approximately \$9,000.

As a result, Marzilli said, member towns are forced to absorb the remainder of the cost to educate the out-of-district students, bringing the total they spend for each pupil to \$21,000. Arlington must pay a \$1.2 million subsidy to educate Minuteman students, an amount he said could easily pay for solutions to all the problems facing the town's public schools.

The member towns which pay the most for educating non-member town students are Arlington, Lexington and Belmont, Marzilli said.

"The (Minuteman) school committee members feel no concern for the burden placed on towns like Arlington," Marzilli said. "After

repeated intervention on our part, some school committee members have said we need to do something about the unfair assessment but Arlington continues to pay the bill while they do nothing."

On Tuesday, the committee examined a management plan for raising revenue to support the budget proposed by Minuteman Superintendent Ronald Fitzgerald, which asks for \$13,348,966, a 1.7 percent increase (\$225,140) over last year's budget of \$13,123,826. According to Fitzgerald's calculations, Arlington's assessment in the coming year is \$2.2 million.

Paul Schlichtman, Arlington's representative to Minuteman, did his own calculations which he said are closer to the way the state will calculate (adding in state aid). Schlichtman's assessment for Arlington comes to \$2,983,000 (\$2,292,000 plus state aid of \$823,000), a number which he calls totally unacceptable.

On Jan. 26, the Minuteman Regional High School Board will hold a public hearing on the superintendent's budget during which interested residents and Finance Committee members of the 16 member towns may offer comments.

After the hearing, the Minuteman School Committee may decide to vote on whether or not to bring the budget to member town's Town Meetings or delay the vote until further discussion takes place. The committee must have a 2/3 vote to bring the budget to the member towns.

The 16 member towns then vote on the Minuteman budget at their Town Meetings. In order for the budget to be accepted, 11 communities must approve it. Schlichtman predicts Arlington and Lexington will not accept the budget.

Dip into surplus

Marzilli and Schlichtman are hoping enough member towns select the alternative which allows them to decrease support to the school. Arlington and Lexington are depending on four other towns to reject spending more than 150

percent of the foundation, he said. If six member towns decide to do so, Marzilli said, Fitzgerald will probably be forced to use some of Minuteman's surplus to help offset the assessment of member communities.

According to Schlichtman, Minuteman is well above the foundation. Last year, he said, Minuteman's spending was up to 209 percent of the foundation. What he'd like to see is that Minuteman gets rid of CHOICE students altogether and begins dipping into its surplus to take the burden of cost off member communities.

Currently, Marzilli said, Minuteman has a surplus of approximately \$4 million yet the law states the school cannot carry more than 5 percent of undesignated funds. Due to what Marzilli describes as "creative accounting", however, Minuteman never actually shows a surplus. Marzilli and Schlichtman said Fitzgerald transfers the surplus (consisting of all the money Minuteman takes in from CHOICE and Chapter 74 students) to a bank account which won't be used until the following year and then repeats the procedure all over again.

Fitzgerald, however, said there is no surplus. "Minuteman bills for tuition throughout the year and at the end of the fiscal year has a large amount which is used to reduce the following year's budget," he said. "Those who call that money a 'surplus' feel all the money received in a given fiscal year should be used to reduce assessments (something we already do) but also take the uncollected money in the same year and apply it toward the budget to reduce assessments even more."

Minuteman has taken advice of a variety of consultants, including professional auditors Pete, Marwick & Mitchell, who said such accounting would be a disaster, Fitzgerald said.

That may work for a year or two, Fitzgerald said he has been told by the auditors, but ultimately it does nothing to lower assessments because in the third year the school would have to raise them again.

Fitzgerald said he feels the legis-

lation Marzilli wrote is causing, rather than solving, the problem of unfair assessment.

"The school is operating under state fiscal procedures that, while not of the school's making, cause severe varia-

tions and inequities in charges to member towns," he said. "There are two basic ways to address these problems: member towns uniting to insist on state correction of unfair policies such as the disgracefully low tuition level for CHOICE students or member towns simply cutting support to Minuteman to a level that will no longer support quality programs."

According to Fitzgerald, the legislation is "misleading" and encourages member towns to solve state-caused inequities by drastically reducing assessment support for Minuteman students.

"We do not disagree with the idea of slowly phasing out CHOICE students," he said. "The CHOICE tuition level is unfair to everyone and should be corrected but the answer is not to take money away from all our kids."

Rather, Fitzgerald said, the solution is to work for legislation which corrects the inequity by raising the tuition level and eventually phasing out the CHOICE program.

The new legislation written by Marzilli, Fitzgerald said, actually prohibits the school from phasing out the CHOICE program. Schlichtman vehemently disagrees. All the legislation does, he said, is give the member towns the discretion to refuse to pay more than 150 percent above foundation.

The public hearing on Minuteman's budget will take place Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the school at 758 Marrett Road in Lexington. Schlichtman encourages anyone to come and speak up.

at the Fidelity House gym located on Medford Street across from St. Agnes Church between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.

Blanket drive Jan. 31

On Sunday, Jan. 31, new and used clean blankets may be dropped off

TOWN ROUNDUP

Markey hosts forum on Social Security

U.S. Rep. Ed Markey, D-Malden, is hosting a series of Social Security forum through the 7th Congressional District this weekend.

Markey will be joined by Judy

Chesser, deputy commissioner of the U.S. Social Security Administration; Phil Mamber, treasurer of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council; Bob Hannon, regional director of the Concord Coalition; and a representative from the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

The forum in Arlington will run from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24, in the Town Hall auditorium.

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Selectmen looking at how to replace Marquis

BY SUSAN DANSEYAR
STAFF WRITER

Selectman Stephen Gilligan feels the most critical decision now facing the board is the search for a new town manager.

Donald Marquis will retire in November 2000, after serving the town for 32 years. It's not too early to start looking for his replacement because it will be a lengthy process requiring input from a variety of people, selectmen agreed at their Jan. 11 meeting.

"Arlington's entry into the new millennium requires of its officials open-mindedness, vision, planning with tenacity to follow through," Gilligan said. "We need strong advocacy from the selectmen for a public process to assist the board in selecting an outstanding professional as our next town manager."

Selecting the manager gives the town an opportunity to take a strong step into the new century, Gilligan said. According to the Town Manager Act, the individual must, at the very least, be a resident of Arlington and have three years experience as a town manager.

Selectman Kevin Greeley said it's vital to get input from a wide source of people including, but not limited to, Marquis and his staff, residents, various boards and commissions, the Chamber of Commerce, professional search firms and the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA).

"This is a time to evaluate the position and define the town manager's role for the year 2000 and beyond," Greeley said.

According to the MMA selectmen's handbook, the Open Meeting Law and Public Records Law have a direct effect on the recruit-

ment process for a town manager. The Open Meeting Law authorizes the use of an executive session during recruitment for review of resumes and interviews but only to "consider and interview applicants for employment by a preliminary screening committee or sub-committee appointed by a governmental body if an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants."

In a memo to selectmen, Gilligan suggested the phases be three-fold and include a seven-member candidates qualification committee (appointed by the board) which would define the values, experience and necessary criteria for applicants; a seven-member application review committee to screen candidates; a seven-member candidate interview committee to review and evaluate selected candidates for submission and recommendation to the board as semi-finalists; and final reviews of semi-finalists by the board.

Last week, Selectmen Charles



STAFF PHOTO BY LISA CASSIDY

A firefighter peers from a window at 60 Bow Street following a two-alarm fire Tuesday afternoon. Firefighters extinguished a basement fire, but the residence sustained heavy smoke damage throughout. Damage was estimated at \$90,000.

FIRE LOG

The Fire Department responded to 104 calls during the period of Jan. 11-18. The calls included 45 rescues, 19 investigations, and 16 fire.

Jan. 11

At 8:18 a.m., firefighters responded to the intersection of Broadway and Route 16 for a two-car accident. The Somerville Fire Department attended the occupants of one car while Arlington attended the other. Both drivers were injured and were transported to Symmes Hospital and Medical Center.

Jan. 12

At 1:28 p.m., firefighters responded to the report of a 12-year-old boy on Massachusetts Avenue with a severe cut on his thumb. Firefighters bandaged his hand and transported him to Symmes.

At 1:46 p.m., firefighters responded to a 43-year-old Langley Road resident who had fallen on the ice. She complained of neck pain and was transferred to Symmes.

Jan. 14

At 3:24 p.m., firefighters responded to White Street for a 24-year-old man who was having a diabetic reaction. Firefighters gave him glucose and orange juice. He refused any further medical assistance.

Jan. 15

At 2:50 p.m., firefighters responded to River Street for a broken heat pipe. The heat pipe was located in the wall on the first floor. It had leaked water into the basement. Firefighters shut down

the furnace and the water supply to the furnace. They suggested that the resident notify the owner.

Jan. 15

At 11:04 p.m., firefighters responded to a 40-year-old Peck Street resident who had fallen on the ice and had suffered a possible fracture to his right ankle. He was transported to Symmes.

Jan. 16

At 8:05 a.m., firefighters responded to an 85-year-old Tanager Street resident who had fallen and complained of right hip pain. Firefighters, after getting into the home through a cellar window, transported her to Symmes.

Jan. 19

At 3:50 p.m., firefighters responded to 60 Bow St. for a report of a fire.

The fire started in the basement next to the furnace and was caused by combustibles that were stored too close to the furnace. There was heavy smoke throughout the house.

Firefighters advanced the hose lines to the basement and the first floor. A second alarm sounded at 4:03 and mutual aid from Belmont and Somerville arrived shortly after.

The fire was extinguished and the walls and ceilings were opened to check if the fire had spread. There were no injuries.

The damage is estimated at \$90,000.

POLICE LOG

Jan. 11

At 7:35 p.m., police arrested Mark Peterson, 20, of 37 Playstead Road, on charges of driving an unregistered motor vehicle, operating after license suspended, attaching plates, uninsured motor vehicle, and no validated sticker.

Peterson's vehicle traveling on Massachusetts Avenue. The officer stopped the car on Walnut Street after noticing it did not have a registration sticker.

Peterson informed the officer that his license was suspended, that the license plate did not belong to the vehicle, and that the vehicle was not registered. A computer check confirmed that Peterson's license was suspended for operating under the influence.

Peterson was arrested and transported to the station.

Jan. 17

At 8:45 p.m., police arrested Nicholas Karasoulos, 25, of 33 Main St., Somerville and charged him with driving a vehicle with defective equipment and operating after license suspended.

At 3 a.m., police arrested Vincent Bordonaro, 20, of Igellineau Street, Malden and charged him with speeding, altering a motor vehicle document and operating under the influence of liquor.

Police saw Bordonaro traveling west on Massachusetts Avenue at a high speed. The officer then saw the car cross the double yellow lines and pass three cars. The officer clocked the car traveling at 48 mph in a 30 mph zone.

Police stopped the car at 333 Mass. Ave. According to the report, the driver said he did not have his license with him. The officer arrested him and transported him to the station.

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CLUB NEWS**Zonta Club looking for new members**

What is Zonta and who should become a member?

Zonta is an international executive service organization of women which works to eradicate violence and educate women around the world. Zonta gives meaning to its purpose by advocating good will and peace through world fellowship and by promoting justice and universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedom.

Zonta's International Service Programs have, for many years, helped upgrade the provision of local health services in underprivileged and third world countries. Among other things, Zonta has funded mobile medical units in Ghana, paramedical health centers in Colombia and clean water wells in Sri Lanka. Presently, Zonta International has committed itself to eliminating female circumcision in Burkina Faso.

Zontians are also actively involved in raising funds to provide educational opportunities and vocational training. Zonta International is a member of Project 5-0, a national project designed to provide vocational training for women and girls in poor economic circumstances in developing countries. The projects, sponsored by the local chapters, receive initial and follow-up funding and are generally self-sufficient within five years.

Zonta continues to work to improve and advance the status of women worldwide. Each local chapter is committed to these noble projects and plays an important role in realizing the international goals. Zonta has active chapters in 68 countries and geographical areas. There are 1,208 chapters worldwide with

34,163 members.

Please consider joining with your contemporaries, colleagues and friends in fellowship and service. Questions and requests for membership information should be addressed to Florence McGee (781) 648-2177 or Iris Nigro (781) 646-8310, co-chairpersons of the membership committee of the Arlington Chapter of Zonta International.

Retired Mens' Club schedule of events

The Retired Mens' Club of Arlington announces the following events:

Wednesday, Jan. 27, Mohegan Sun Casino: \$20 pp. Departs 7:30 a.m., returns 9 p.m. Enjoy a day of gambling and excitement at Mohegan Sun Casino located in Uncasville, Conn. Tour includes \$10 food coupon; \$10 pull tabs and \$10 money wheel. Deluxe Motor Coach Transportation. Coffee and donuts available for \$1. For more information or reservations contact: Jim Alosso 781-648-6624. Please make checks payable to "RMCA".

Woman's Club next meeting on Jan. 28

The next meeting of the Arlington Woman's Club will be Thursday, Jan. 28 in the First Baptist church, 819 Mass. Avenue.

Refreshments will be served at 12:30, and Jennifer deRemer from Robbins Library will review several of the works of favorite woman authors at 1 p.m. A brief business meeting will be held following Ms. deRemer's presentation.

All women from Arlington and the surrounding communities are cordially invited to join club members for what promises to be an enjoyable experience.

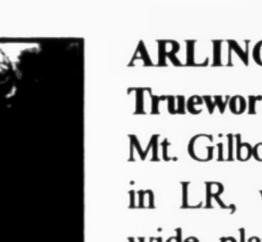
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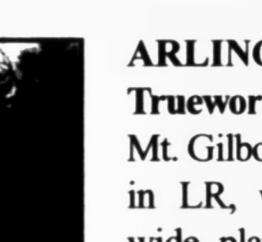
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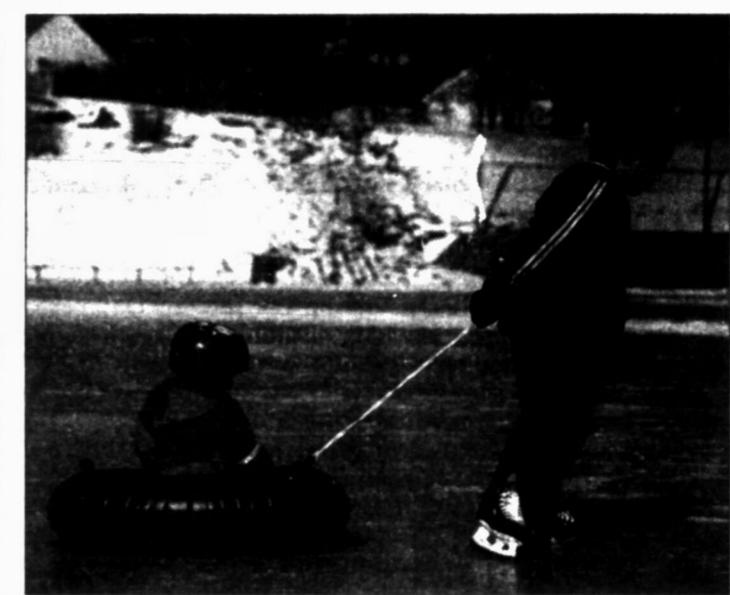
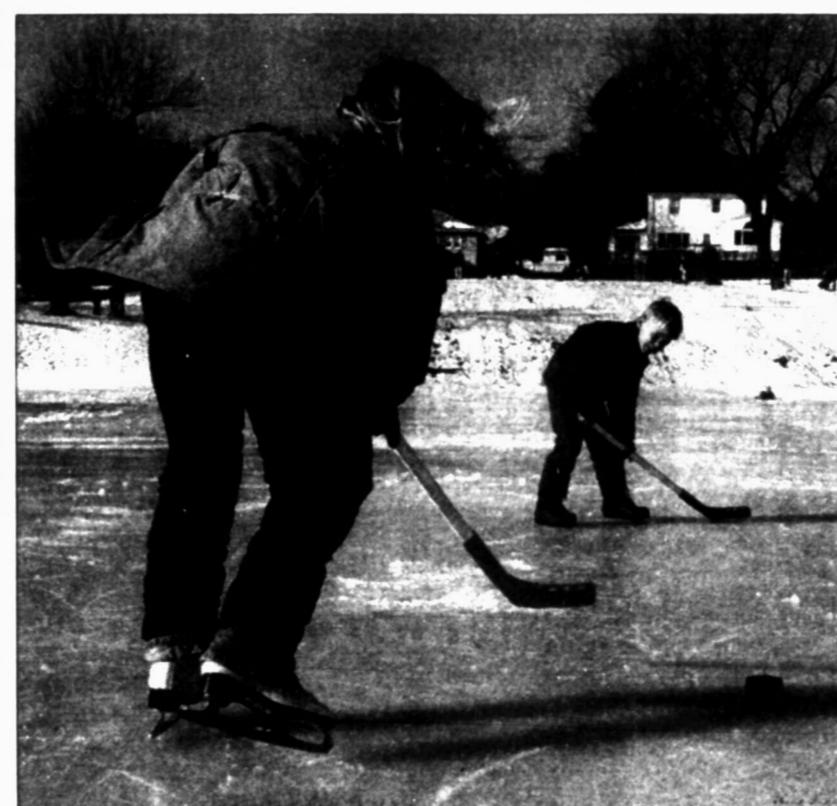
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SNOW DAYS

Enjoying the results of the first major snowstorm of the winter was, top, Gregory Cottarel, 5, who trudged back up the steep hill at Robbins Farm on Eastern Avenue Sunday. At left, Megan Bounds, 10, tests out her slaps on Ryan Krueger, 7, on a frozen playing field at Robbins Farm. Above, Zack Sheldon, 9, takes his friend Omar Malik, 3, for a ride.

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Arlington schools seeking volunteers

Arlington public schools are seeking volunteers for the following assignments:

- Chess anyone? Thompson needs a chess instructor after school.
- English and Math tutoring at secondary schools
- Ottoson needs helpers in the media center: put books on tape.
- Clerical help for director of technology.
- Video taping—come for free training!
- Be a Scientist for a Day (or an hour) Find out what's happening in the schools.

The school system is also establishing a resource directory. Residents who would be interested in reading to students, helping with writing skills, doing a science experiment, demonstrating a hobby or skill, or speaking about their work or culture, are urged to sign up.

Call Judi Bohn, 316-3573, or e-mail jbohn@arlington.k12.ma.us

Daffodil Days seeks local volunteers

Even though there is a winter chill in the air, the American Cancer Society is already looking forward to spring and the annual Daffodil Days fund raising campaign.

The daffodil is the first flower of spring and as such symbolizes hope and renewed life for cancer patients and their families. This year's Daffodil Days campaign will run from Tuesday, March 22 through Saturday, March 28. Bouquets of 10 flowers are \$5. This vital fund raiser sustains local programs of research, prevention, detection, education and patient services. This includes such local services as: transportation for patients to cancer treatments, one on one support for women with breast cancer, cosmetologist consultations for women being treated for cancer, and many others.

ACS would like to invite area residents to get involved with this year's Daffodil Days campaign. Depending on your interests, volunteers are needed for various assignments including: packaging and sorting, pre-sales and direct sales, delivery, and administrative support.

Please call your local American Cancer Society to find out more about volunteer opportunities and Daffodil Days, at (617) 556-7400.

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Environmentalists ask for \$20M to close state's 'environmental deficit'

BY ELIZABETH BEARDSLEY
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

Advocates called on the governor and Legislature last week to boost state budget funding by \$20 million for clean water and land use initiatives that have become victims of the so-called environmental deficit.

At a press conference Jan. 11 to unveil the Environmental League of Massachusetts' "Green Budget 2000," ELM Legislative Director Namrita Kapur called the state budget "the single most important factor in protecting the state's public health and environment."

"We're still playing catch-up in terms of dollars for environmental programs," Kapur said. "New problems and responsibilities have arisen over the last decade, but the environmental budget has actually lost ground."

Environmentalists say funding for their favored programs has increased in recent years, but the percentage of the state budget devoted to environmental issues has shrunk considerably during that same period. That shrinking percentage, which ELM dubbed the "environmental deficit," amounts to \$26 million, a gap that has opened up since fiscal year 1989. The extra \$20 million requested in the Green Budget equals about one-tenth of 1 percent of the entire state budget.

The funding infusion would help the state make progress in areas like pollution control, forest and park maintenance, recycling, river and watershed protection, hazardous waste cleanup, open space acquisition and drinking water protection.

On the topic of environmental justice, Veronica Eady, director of Roxbury-based Alternatives for Community and Environment, said urban areas have a disproportionate share of brownfields and Superfund sites. As a result, she said, urban residents suffer the highest rates of pollution-related medical problems such as asthma.

"We're asking for significant increases, but when you have years and years of environmental degradation and discriminatory siting, it's really critical that we have the money to address those sites," Eady said. "It's so disproportionate that we really need more money to look into these cumulative issues."

The Green Budget recommends an additional \$750,000 to study the cumulative health impacts of pollution, and an extra \$200,000 apiece for the Urban Rivers Initiative and for communities with hazardous waste sites. It calls for \$2 million more for the Metropolitan District Commission's parks, which can be the chief outdoor

The state has a budget surplus this year that we expect is going to be in excess of \$300 million. I think it's entirely reasonable to expect that some of that surplus money be used to address some of the Commonwealth's unmet environmental needs.'

REP. JIM MARZILLI

recreation area for city dwellers.

Water quality improvement is the second main theme of the Green Budget, which requests more than \$4 million in new funding for water projects.

Kapur said more than half of Massachusetts' rivers and streams do not pass muster with state water quality standards, and that the Ipswich River, in particular, is classified as one of the 20 most threatened rivers in North America. The state also lacks coastal pollution monitoring for its 1,500 miles of coastline, which generate an estimated \$1.5 billion in tourist revenues each year.

Budgetary recommendations for water quality improvement include an extra \$1.9 million for the Watershed Initiative; \$1.5 million for enforcement of the Clean Water Act; and \$750,000 in seed money for a coordinated coastal pollution monitoring program.

Mark Rasmussen, director of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, said the state's history, economy, and way of life are all linked to its waterways.

"We are calling on Gov. Cellucci to recognize and protect our heritage by adequately funding programs that deal with drinking water quality, runoff pollution, marine monitoring and a whole host of other issues that impact our water resources," Rasmussen said.

The encroachment of urban sprawl upon the state's ever-diminishing open space and farmland is the third main concern of the Green Budget, which recommends an additional \$3.25 million be spent on land use management.

Whitney Hatch, New England regional director of Trust for Public Lands, illustrated the development problem with a startling statistic - nationwide, two acres of

farmland have been lost every minute since 1970, he said.

"We're using up our land faster than ever," Hatch said. "Acre by acre, our most productive lands are being paved over and destroyed by scatter-shot development."

While Massachusetts' population has grown 28 percent in the last 40 years, the amount of developed land has jumped 188 percent. Every year, about 20,000 acres of open space are taken by new development. In the last year alone, the state lost 8 percent of its farmland. The 280,000 acres of state forests only have about one-third of the staff needed, and the accelerated development of land has left 124 species of plants and animals in danger of extinction.

Under the rubric of land use, the Green Budget recommends \$2 million for preservation of farms and farmland; \$871,000 to fully staff the forest management program; \$250,000 to establish a statewide habitat protection strategy; and \$150,000 to help towns plan for development.

MassPIRG environmental attorney Paul Burns pointed to recent publicity surrounding the release of the movie "A Civil Action," and said that while progress has been made in recent years, more needs to be done.

"It's not just a movie. It was not just a one-time, long-ago event," Burns said of the portrayal of the real-life water poisoning tragedy in Woburn. "We must go even further, we must do even more, and we need state resources to make that happen."

Rep. Jim Marzilli, D-Arlington, said he expects the House to grant funding increases for some Green Budget recommendations, particularly in the areas of open space and brownfields cleanup.

"The state has a budget surplus this year that we expect is going to be in excess of \$300 million," Marzilli said. "I think it's entirely reasonable to expect that some of that surplus money be used to address some of the Commonwealth's unmet environmental needs."

Sen. Stephen Brewer, D-Barre, said the state's economy is dependent on tourism and the state must make sure it preserves its natural resources. "We're talking not only about the environment, we're talking about the economy," he said. "Are we going to do all \$20 million? I doubt it. But you need to have an aggressive opening salvo here, and hopefully we can push the agenda together if we all work together."

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Havern again to lead Joint Committee on Transportation

Sen. Robert Havern III, D-Arlington, in his fifth term in the Senate, has been reappointed chairman of the Joint Committee on Transportation by Sen. President Thomas F. Birmingham.

In addition to being the chair of the Joint Committee on Transportation, Havern will continue to serve as vice chair of the Joint Committee on Public Service and vice chair of the Senate Post Audit and Oversight Committee and as a member of the Senate Ways and Means Committee and the Joint Committee on Public Safety.

"I am very pleased to be returning as chair of the Transportation Committee," said Havern. "This is increasingly important as we try to responsibly balance the financial pressure of the Big Dig with other pressing transportation needs throughout the Commonwealth that require our constant attention, particularly the maintenance of local roads and bridges to ensure public safety and sustain property values."



Paul D'Addario, Doug Howard and Rick D'Addario were among the guests invited to Gov. Paul Cellucci's inaugural celebration Jan. 7 in the grand ballroom at the Hynes Convention Center.

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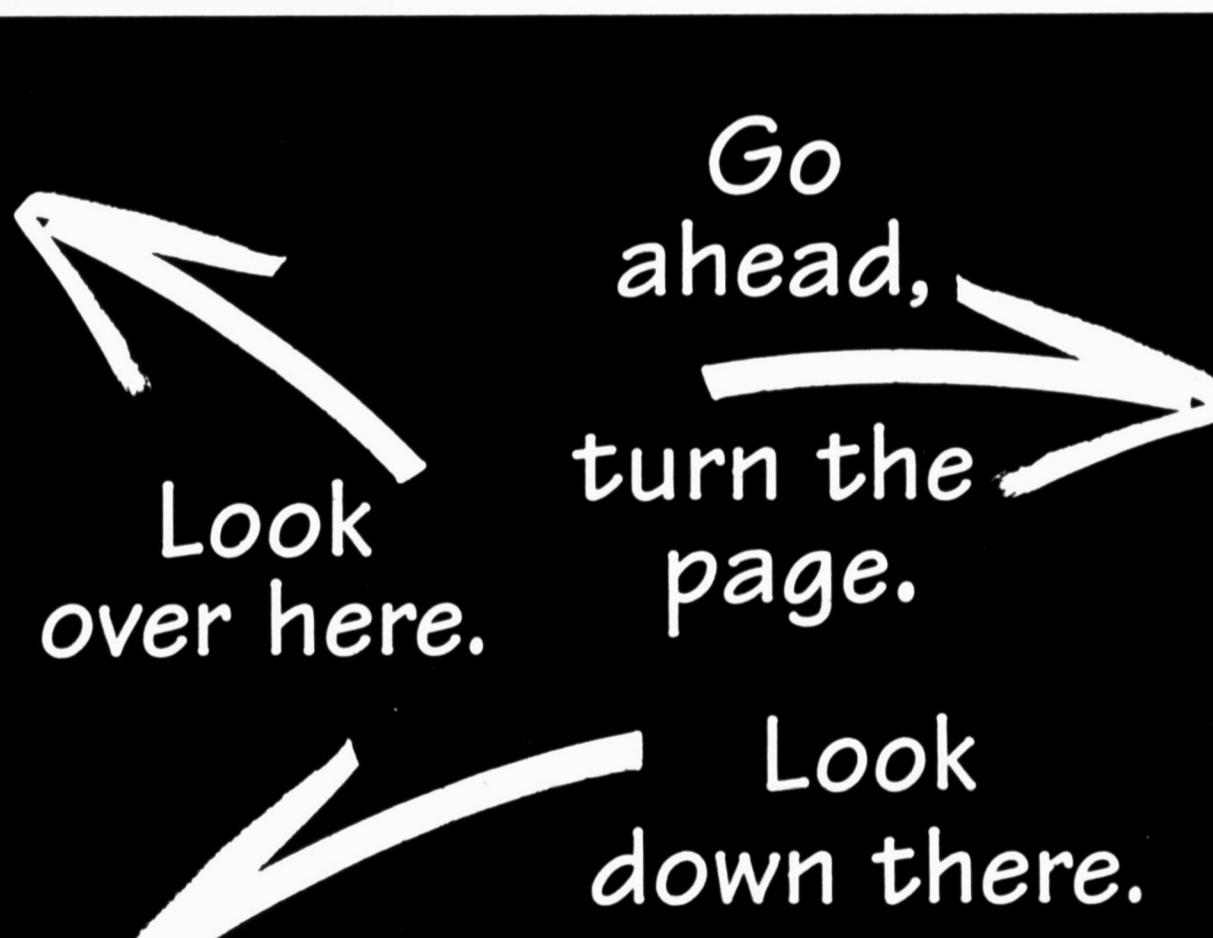
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ON EXHIBIT



A Doll's House, a photograph by Arlington resident Wendy Mimran, will be part of a group exhibit "Families Receiving Welfare: Untold Stories" which will be on display at the State House from Jan. 25 through Feb. 5. A reception will be held from 4-6 p.m. Jan. 26. Other photographers in the exhibit are Christine Breslin, Joanne Ciccarello, Paula Lerner, Heather Pillar, Beth Reynolds and Jane Tyska.

BUSINESS NEWS

MediaOne enters digital phone market

MediaOne is launching digital telephone services in Arlington. The digital telephone service has 17 calling features and will cost \$26.95 monthly.

Standard features include call forwarding, call return, call waiting, call transfer, caller ID, continuous redial, distinctive ring, speed calling and three-way calling. Customers can choose from three service packages and voice mail: one phone line with all 17 features at \$26.95 monthly; two phone lines with one basic line and one fully featured line at \$35.95 monthly; two fully featured lines at \$42.95 monthly; and voice mail at \$4.95 monthly.

The digital telephone service is provided over the company's hybrid fiber optic coaxial cable, commonly referred to as Interactive Broadband network. The new telephone service is compatible with any household's existing telephones and wiring. MediaOne customers may keep their existing telephone numbers.

Company representatives said customers who sign up early will



Stephen Nocella of Commercial Banking, Bank Boston, center, recently joined the Arlington Rotary Club. Welcoming him to the club is Treasurer Robert Romano, left, and President Joel Long.

receive free installation, one month of free telephone service and three months of voice mail at no charge.

Chamber's after hours gathering on Jan. 27

The next Chamber of Com-

merce Business After Hours for Chamber members will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Alewife Brook Pediatric office, 29 Mass. Ave.

Those members planning to attend should call the Chamber office at 643-4600 or the medical office at 643-4507.

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Kerry Ann Villandry weds Matt C. Moschella

Ms. Kerry Ann Villandry and Mr. Matt C. Moschella were married on Oct. 10, 1998 at St. Agnes Church in Arlington. The Reverend Father James DiPerri, pastor of St. Catherine's of Sienna in Charlestown, officiated at the 10 a.m. nuptial Mass.

The bride is the daughter of David and Cheryl Villandry of Arlington and the granddaughter of Richard and Frances Villandry and Rita Hauser, all of Arlington.

The groom is the son of Alex and Lee Moschella of Arlington and the grandson of Eleanor Connolly of Revere.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by her sister, Amy Villandry, as her maid of honor, Julie Buchanan, Janet Kiley, Lauren Moschella, Bethany Sorensen, Jennifer Watson, and Kerry Zurlo were her attendants. Kerry's niece, Samantha Villandry of Connecticut, was her junior bridesmaid. Emily Griffin, Kerry's goddaughter was the flower girl.

The groom was attended by Orry Vigliante who served as best man. Ushers were Andy Jones, Greg Moscatel, Ryan Moschella, Roger Tsai, DJ Villandry and Matt Watson.

A wedding reception followed the Mass at the World Trade Center in Boston. The couple honeymooned on the Grand Cayman Island.

The bride and groom both are 1993 graduates of Arlington High School. The bride received her master's degree in physical therapy from Springfield College. Her husband received his master's degree in social work from Boston College.

They are presently residing in Revere.



Kerry Ann Villandry and Matt C. Moschella

BIRTHS

Derek Edward Smith

A son, Derek Edward Smith was born on Sunday, Dec. 20, 1998 at Winchester Hospital to Rick and Chris (Teehan) Smith of Arlington.

Maternal grandparents are Ann and Edward Teehan of Arlington.

Paternal grandparents are Richard and Myrna Smith of Middleboro.

Derek weighed 8 lbs. and 5 oz.

Conlon James Spinale

A son, Conlon James Spinale was born on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 1998 at Melrose Wakefield Hospital to Sean James Spinale and Wendy Jean Linehan of Somerville.

Maternal grandparents are John and Mary Lou Linehan of Somerville.

Paternal grandparents are James and Marie Spinale of Arlington.

Conlon joins his siblings Nicholas Dimaggio, 8 1/2 years old and Jocelyn Spinale, 22 months.

Kaleigh Rose Scoville

Darrel Scoville and Carrie DeMartino, of New Brunswick, Canada, formerly of Arlington, announced the birth of their daughter, Kaleigh Rose Scoville, born on Dec. 1, 1998.

Grandparents are Joseph and Cindy DeMartino, formerly of Arlington, and Loraine and Earl Scoville, of Saskatchewan, Canada.

Kaleigh Rose weighed in at 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and was 20 1/2 inches.

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Jan. 22

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 - THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (R) 7:20, 9:40
 - A SIMPLE PLAN (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
 - ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) 7:10, 9:45

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• THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G) 1:35, 3:20

• PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

• BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (G) 1:25, 3:20, 5:15

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 23 & 24

• ELIZABETH (R) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

• THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) 11:30, 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00

• A SIMPLE PLAN (R) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

• ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) 7:10, 9:45

• STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) 11:35, 1:40, 3:45 5:50, 7:55, 10:00

• THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G) 11:50, 1:35, 3:20

• PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

• BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (G) 11:30, 1:25, 3:20, 5:15

Monday-Thursday, Jan. 25-28

• ELIZABETH (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

• THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00

• A SIMPLE PLAN (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

• ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) 7:10, 9:45

• STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) 1:40, 3:45 5:50, 7:55, 10:00

• THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G) 1:35, 3:20

• PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

• BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (G) 11:30, 1:25, 3:20, 5:15

Monday-Thursday, Jan. 25-28

• ELIZABETH (R) 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

• THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (PG) 1:30, 3:25, 5:20, 7:10, 9:00

• A SIMPLE PLAN (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

• ENEMY OF THE STATE (R) 7:10, 9:45

• STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG) 1:40, 3:45 5:50, 7:55, 10:00

• THE RUGRATS MOVIE (G) 1:35, 3:20

• PLEASANTVILLE (PG13) 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

• BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (G) 1:25, 3:20, 5:15



BUSINESS NOTES



From left, Bud Carmichael, president of Horizons; Elinor Berk, owner of Holiday Consultants; Carol Gori, manager of Holiday Consultants; and Paul McDonald, local attorney for Horizons.

Feinman Remodeling wins industry award

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) has concluded its regional competition and has announced the NARI 1999 Contractor of the Year winners.

Feinman Remodeling was recognized as a regional first place winner in the "residential exterior" category. Feinman Remodeling also received honorable mention for their renovation of a master bath. To be recognized as a CotY winner, companies must demonstrate a special blend of technical skills, artistic creativity, sensitivity, and most of all, dedication.

In its 12th year, Feinman Remodeling specializes in bringing unique design and building solutions to their clients for residential kitchens, bathrooms, additions and whole house renovations.

Horizons Unlimited buys Holiday Travel

Longtime local resident and area businessman Quentin "Bud" Carmichael of Arlington, has acquired Holiday Consultants Travel in Arlington.

The merger took place as Horizons Unlimited Travel, the parent company in Framingham, prepares to celebrate its 45th year in business in 1999. Holiday Consultants' owner Elinor Berk will remain in the Arlington Center branch assisted by newly-appointed manager Carol Gori.

The latest merger brings the number of Horizons Unlimited Travel locations to four with offices in Arlington, Boston, Framingham and Marlborough, and brings Horizons annual sales volume to \$36 million. Carmichael said it is the company's goal to add up to four more mergers/branches in 1999.

Soup kettle is cooking at local restaurants

The temperature is barely above zero, and the weatherman is forecasting snow this afternoon. I need some comfort food; I need some soup.

If I took a survey, everyone would probably admit to a favorite soup. Many of us trace our affection with soup to childhood and a loving grandma who warmed us with hugs and her own special chicken soup.

What is soup? A quick definition is any broth enhanced with meat, vegetables, or both. In New England, we also crave smooth, thick, and creamy soups called bisques as well as chunky chowders.

No matter how you fix it, soup is a versatile dish and an important part of most cultures. Here are some soups that you can enjoy in Arlington:

- A Tavola Ristorante, 305 Broadway, Tuscan Soup: Tomato soup with imported Parmesan cheese.

- Asiana Grill, 444 Mass. Ave. Rice Cake Mandoo Soup: Meat and vegetable dumplings in broth with rice cake.

- Kong Luh, 9 Medford St. Seafood Soup: Delicate soup with fresh shrimp, scallops, and crabmeat, lightly mixed with egg.

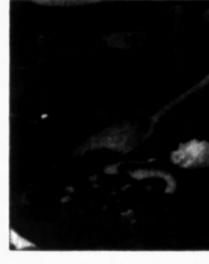
- La Buona Vita, 450 Mass. Ave. Mussel Soup: Mussels in a garlic, tomato, and oregano broth with crostini.

- Rama Thai, 1377 Mass. Ave. Tom Kha Gai: Chicken in coconut milk with scallion, mushroom, lime juice, and galanga fragrant.

- Sweet Chili, 470-472 Mass. Ave. Wonton Soup: Shrimp wrapped with wonton skins in a flavorful broth.

DINING/VALENTINE'S DAY NEWS AROUND TOWN: A Tavola Ristorante, 305 Broadway, will serve a special three-course dinner

Food & Thought



ANNE-MARIE SELTZER

on Valentine's Day from 4 to 10 p.m. Price: \$25. Reservations accepted for any size party; reservations recommended. Call: 641-1430.

Cafe Nina, 102 Summer St., will hold a wine dinner

on Mon., Feb. 8. Reservations required. The regular menu and some specials will be served on Valentine's Day from 3 to 8:30 p.m. Reservations suggested. Call: 643-1711.

Flora, 190 Mass. Ave., will celebrate Valentine's Day weekend (Feb. 13-15), with regular dishes and some specials for two. Reservations accepted for any size party, all three days; reservations are suggested. On Saturday, Feb. 6, Flora will hold at special sit-down brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Greater Boston Food Bank. Reservations required. \$15. Call: 641-1664.

Gala Ristorante, 138 Mass. Ave., is now offering such comfort foods as stews and stuffed canteloni. Look for wine tastings soon. Valentine's Day will be celebrated on Feb. 13 with a special menu. Call for details. Call: 646-1404.

La Buona Vita, 450 Mass. Ave., will serve a special dinner menu beginning Feb. 1; items can be taken out. Dishes from the printed menu and a few specials will be available, too. Call: 641-4734.

Prose, 352A Mass. Ave., will serve a special four-course dinner on Valentine's Day. Reservations suggested; one seating between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Price: \$45. Prose is also featuring one special dish per week from the Dominican Republic. Call: 648-2800.

The Village Fish, 464 Mass. Ave., has a new wine list. A special lobster dinner for two will be served on Valentine's Day. Reservations accepted for all size parties. Call: 483-3474.

FYI: Don't forget your sweetheart on Feb. 14. Here are several ways to say, "I love you."

The Arlington Bakery and Pastry Shop, 187 Mass. Ave., will sell heart-shaped cakes and special cookies. Advanced cake orders required. Open daily, except Mon. Call: 646-7444.

A heart-shaped cake, with two flavors of ice cream or yogurt and your special message written on top, is available from Ben & Jerry's, 451 Mass. Ave. Advanced orders required. Price: \$18.85. Call: 648-7044.

The Chocolate Bar, 193-195 Mass. Ave., is featuring chocolate-dipped strawberries, valentine fudge sets, and chocolates in special valentine shapes as well as truffles and bark. New this year: fresh roses. Open daily. Call: 641-9985.

Lakota Bakery, 1373 Mass. Ave., specializes in cakes and cookies. All cakes made to order; 48 hours' notice required. Open daily, except Sun. Call: 646-0121.

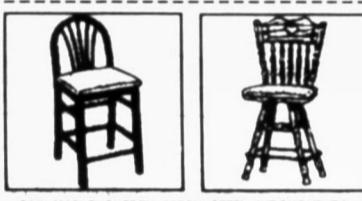
Quebrada Coffee House, 210 Mass. Ave., is selling small and large heart-shaped cakes, plain and fancy heart-shaped shortbread cookies, and raspberry-filled shortbread cookies. Cakes cost \$6 and \$12; advanced orders required. Open daily. Call: 648-0100.

Ye Olde Bake Shoppe, 916 Mass. Ave., will sell heart-shaped cakes and cookies. Advanced orders required for cakes. Open daily. Call: 646-2253.

(Send comments to Anne-Marie Seltzer, The Arlington Advocate, 9 Merriam St., Lexington, MA 02173. E-mail address: amseltzer@geocities.com)

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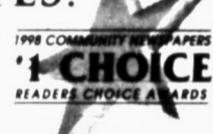
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The Arlington Advocate

COMMENT

EDITORIAL

Changing codes a modern way of life?

Just when you thought it was safe to order business cards more than 20 at a time, the state Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) starts considering more area codes for Eastern Massachusetts. It makes us edgy to think that some of the same people involved in this current confusion might be involved in debugging our phone system computers to solve the Year 2000 problem.

It was only last year that 781 and 978 crowded onto the scene, but the boom in small phone companies and the formula for doling out phone exchanges mean there might be four more area codes in place by the year 2000.

The DTE was notified last spring that area codes 617, 508, 978 and 781 were running out of exchange codes — the first three digits of each seven-digit phone number. A study indicated that, at the current rate of distribution, all of the exchange codes in these four area codes could be gone as early as next January.

That does not mean the 7.5 million numbers in each area code will be given out by next January. Only that the exchange codes would be.

According to Tim Shevlin, the DTE's executive director, when a company such as Sprint, MCI or AT&T requests a group of numbers in a certain community those numbers, because of a technological limitation, are allocated in blocks of 10,000, even if the company in question has far fewer customers in that area.

The explosion in demand for extra telephone numbers is occurring to accommodate society's lust for Internet connections (thus, an additional phone line); pagers (another phone number); cellular phones (you guessed it, another number); and to service the households that pay for a second line because of a home-based business or a surplus of teenagers. This increased demand and concurrent changes in regulations on phone companies prompted a wave of companies to jump into the business, competing for the new customers.

One proposal floated early in this process would have called for new phone numbers in the new area codes to be assigned to cellular phones, modems and fax numbers. The Federal Communications Commission rejected that idea (although the decision is under appeal), saying it discriminated against wireless phone companies.

Other options include adding new area codes — either by means of an overlay or by halving each of the current area code districts and creating four more.

The so-called overlay plan would entail issuance of new area codes to anyone seeking a new number in a community. That plan would mean neighbors might have different area codes because they moved in at different times.

The splitting up of area code districts would mean some communities — even those that have already undergone a recent change — would be moved into new districts and issued new codes.

Both methods were discussed last spring at a meeting of Massachusetts industry figures, but neither was universally supported.

We think the whole issue smacks of bad planning, terrible forecasting and a basic lack of consideration for telephone customers.

But our changing habits and increased demand for service must also be held responsible for the problem.

(The DTE has scheduled a series of hearings to solicit input on the area code issue, with the final session slated at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, at the Ga'vin School Auditorium, 525 Main St., Wakefield.)



DAVE GRANLUND ©1999 METROWEST DAILY NEWS

The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"
Samuel Wilson

A backstage view of the 'opera incident'

Let's attempt to clarify the circumstances surrounding the "Opera Incident" at Peirce School last month.

It wasn't about opera. It wasn't about Mozart. It wasn't about the school administration attempting to "water down" the elementary music curriculum. It wasn't about a mother objecting to a video presentation or a long established work of art. It wasn't about children resisting the experience of listening to non-commercial/non-pop music. (As second and third graders, this same group of students had been to performances of the "Nutcracker" and to BSO concerts, had enjoyed learning about and performing in a medieval fair, and recently watched a video performance of the "Nutcracker" without complaint or incident.)

So what was it about? It was about several circumstances that came together to form an unfortunate situation. These include:

• As one letter writer suggested, she "would not necessarily have selected this particular work of Mozart for fourth graders." The plot for "The Marriage of Figaro" centers on deception, infidelity and lustful behavior (a soap opera set to great music), and the children described the video to contain bawdy scenes and swearing in subtitles. While this is certainly nothing that most haven't already seen

and heard, it made some of the 9 to 10 year old students uncomfortable watching this type of story with their entire class in a mixed gender school environment. Boys and girls of this age group are starting to become self-conscious and sensitive to what is said, done and seen in front of the opposite sex.

• The version of the opera that was shown was not age appropriate. One parent, whose child was upset with what happened, attempted to locate the video and could not but was informed that the video had a PG-13 rating. Again, not outrageous by today's mass media standards, but not appropriate for 9 to 10 year olds in a classroom setting without prior parental knowledge or consent. While I may choose to allow my child to watch movies with mature content, my moral standards or the moral standards of a substitute teacher should not be imposed wantonly on a classroom full of unfamiliar children, whose parents may have a different perspective on what is considered appropriate for their own children. In a public elementary school setting, I don't believe the expectation that parental consent should be required for sexual content/mature themes is unreasonable.

• The substitute was unknown to many of the children. It made some children uncomfortable to be viewing this material in a darkened room with the doors closed in the presence of a male stranger. In a society that bombards children daily with images of sex and

violence, these feelings are our children's "safety net." Had this same video been shown by a familiar, trusted adult, who had prepared them for the content of the opera in the context of the study of opera or various musical forms, then the feelings of discomfort might not have existed. This was not the situation and the feelings of uneasiness evoked in the children deserved to be recognized, explored and not carelessly dismissed.

There are plenty of ways to introduce elementary-age children to "a little Mozart," or to the other operas, to other classical composers, to the wonders of the performing and fine arts. Playing the music without the accompaniment of lurid images, choosing an opera without such an (arguably) salacious plot, ensuring that the video shown was age appropriate are just a few that come to mind. While the substitute's intent (to expose children to opera) was presumably noble, the implementation lacked elements of good judgment and common sense. In my opinion the school administration acted promptly decisively, and appropriately in this case.

It should have been a terrific cultural learning experience. It was not. But this one incident should not be used to condemn the entire system or the music curriculum in general. There are many great things happening as well in our schools.

Leslie Mayer is a parent of a Peirce School student and a Crescent Hill Avenue resident.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What's happened to snow plowing streets?

To the editor:

This letter was prompted by the first meaningful snow of the 1998-99 winter season. The congratulations goes to whoever in the DPW is responsible for our snow removal programs. That person or persons, no doubt wished to replace neighboring cities such as Somerville and Cambridge as the class leaders in a miserable snow removal effort, congratulations, you have succeeded beyond your wildest dreams. I base this assessment on a comparative drive through Cambridge after driving from my home to Arlington Heights.

In the almost 20 years I've been a resident, this is the worst job of snow and ice removal I have ever seen. When I first moved here, I was amazed and impressed with the wonderful job the DPW did in keeping our streets clear and passable. In the last two years this performance has deteriorated to the point that is nothing short of frightening.

What is going on? Where are the plows and sanders? Where are the private contractors with their heavy equipment that used to keep Appleton Street and Wollaston Avenue clear to the pavement? In the course of Friday's storm, the

only plow I saw during the afternoon (when the snow had yet to freeze) was a small pickup truck with a plow that I thought was plowing but maybe it was a local practicing with his plow down. Are we hiring contractors that don't have heavy equipment?

Years ago (and maybe still) the city of Lowell used to contract snow removal to all contractors with pickup truck plows. Based on my experience then, it was a dismal failure. I don't know if it was a cost consideration or if someone was trying to "take care" of the little guy but if this is the way our DPW is moving, we can expect considerable misery in future storms.

It was pretty sad to hear, Saturday morning, a distraught young mother with her child on Mass. Ave. in the Heights worrying if she would be able to safely return home after "sliding" down to the Heights. (She probably would not have ventured out if she had known that the town no longer does a credible job of snow removal and sanding.)

I am concerned and upset! Where are my (recently increased) tax dollars going? I expect our selectmen to ask the same questions I've raised here. We have too many hills and busy streets to allow anything but a continuance of the way we used to maintain

our streets during the winter months.

John V. Belskis
Wollaston Ave.

School library thanks King committee

The Library Media Department of the Arlington Public Schools would like to thank The Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance Committee for their recent donation to the school libraries.

Thanks to their generosity, the K-12 school librarians were able to purchase books and videos for their collections to enhance the curriculum on topics concerning African-American history.

Shelley Glantz
Lead Teacher
Library Media Department

Family thanks those who helped mother

To the editor:

We want to express our appreciation to all those who helped our mom in front of our house on Nov. 30, 1998. She is doing just fine thanks to all of you. We do not know who stopped and called 911 but we hope you see this letter and realize how much your act of kindness means to us.

We are deeply grateful to the

Arlington police and the fire and ambulance services, not only for your quick response and professional help but also for your caring attitude. You made sure that all her belongings were with her when you transported our mom to the emergency room at Symmes Hospital. Also thank you to the staff at Symmes for the excellent care you gave. We are fortunate to have your facility in our town.

Finally, thank you to our friend for the help and support you gave by contacting members of the family and checking on our mom at the hospital. We are truly blessed to have all of you for neighbors.

The Brine Doyle family
Richfield Road

Nursing home thanks Legion Post #39

To the editor:

The residents at Park Avenue Nursing and Rehabilitation Center wish to thank Arlington American Legion Post #39 for its contribution of toiletry gift boxes during the holiday season.

Our veterans were very pleased with your warm remembrance of them. Your kindness and generosity is sincerely appreciated.

Residents at Park Avenue Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

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MISSION STATEMENT

It is the goal of *The Arlington Advocate* to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need, in a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

Arlington's crime rate drops

■ CRIME, FROM PAGE 1
Her daughter has been charged in the case.

John Jope, director of the Council on Aging, said his first reaction to the decreased crime rate might not be as positive as most.

Unfortunately elder abuse is not so rare, and Jope believes because of under-reporting the statistics may not give a good view on crime.

"A decrease in overall crime doesn't necessarily mean a decrease in all crimes," said Jope, who said he worries about crimes against the elderly.

"I don't just worry about physical abuse, but also emotional and financial," said Jope.

Jope said elder abuse is on the rise, though it remains under-reported. The Council on Aging has held numerous educational lectures, including a workshop on telephone scams and overall safety issues.

"We try to bring people information that will help them in the event they are targeted," said Jope.

George Laite, chairman of the East Arlington Good Neighbors Committee, said that it is nothing but good news that crime has been decreasing over the past five

PART I : CRIMES IN ARLINGTON

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Murder/Manslaughter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	3	3	2	4	2	4	3
Robbery	7	11	15	15	9	14	14
Aggravated Assault	123	73	65	103	86	83	104
Burglary	175	169	127	98	109	108	119
Larceny	405	359	379	359	328	354	239
Vehicle Theft	99	101	81	64	43	47	28
Total	812	717	669	643	577	610	507

SOURCE: Police Service Division

years.

"I think full credit should be given to the men and women of the police department for their hard work. I think it is important to thank the police as citizens of Arlington," said Laite.

Jane Howard of Vision 2020 agrees and said one of the most impressive aspects of the police and fire departments is how quickly they respond to calls.

"I think it is especially reassuring for the elderly population to know that the response time is so small," said Howard.

Vision 2020 conducted an opinion survey a few years ago which indicated that people were very impressed by the effectiveness of both the police and fire departments.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



From left, Kashala Hill, Michael Lazarus, Cynthia Price, and her daughter, Naomi, represent three generations of a family who took part in delivering Christmas meals to Arlington seniors on Christmas Day. At right is Arlington Senior Association President and Coordinator of the Christmas Meals Program, Irene Murphy. The Arlington Senior Association, Inc. donates the meals and organizes the delivery of them and is most grateful to the many wonderful volunteers who helped in the preparation, packing and delivery of the meals.



Arlington resident Russ Bartash, fifth from left, was among tradesmen who helped keep a tradition going at the Shriners Hospital.

Tradesmen help Shriners patients

Russ Bartash of Arlington was one of the many tradesmen currently putting the finishing touches on the new Shriners Burns Hospital in Boston, who helped bring a Merry Christmas to the young Shriners patients with a huge donation of toys.

"Each of the four years that we have been building Shriners we have taken up a collection among all the trades and then appoint our shoppers, who visit the local toy stores. Because the children at Shriners are all burn patients we have to be careful what we buy, so we get a list of needed and acceptable toys from the Recreation and Child Life Therapy Department," Bartash said.

The Shriners Burns Hospital in Boston is one of 22 Shriners Hospitals for children with orthopedic problems, burns and spinal cord injuries.

Kelly completes Marine basic training

Marine Pfc. Keith Kelly, of Summer Street recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Kelly successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits.

In addition to the physical conditioning program, Kelly spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regula-

Spengler resigns from town board

■ SPENGLER, FROM PAGE 1

worked as though it was a full-time job," said Remmert-Loud. "During that time, I worked closely with her and she was dynamic, energetic and a tireless worker, totally dedicated to the campaign."

As a member of the Permanent Town Building Committee, Spengler was also involved with the construction of the project, Remmert-Loud said. "She was the delegate from the committee to work with the library trustees on selecting furnishings, so she was involved in the project from the beginning to the end."

Edward T. M. Tsoi, a member of the Redevelopment Board, said Spengler is one of the most well-rounded public servants the board has ever had. "With her experience on the Board of Selectmen, the Finance Committee and as a trustee of the library, she brought to this board a sense of pride in Arlington and a great perspective," he said.

Tsoi said Spengler will be sorely missed and a very difficult person

to replace. Yet after so many years of service to the town, he said, it's understandable that Spengler will want more time to devote to her family and her travels.

"She took every hearing we had extremely seriously, as all the board members do," Tsoi said. "She is so well respected by everyone who knows her and she always had a sense that the board has a very important role in this town."

Of all her many strengths, one of the greatest Spengler brought to the board was her sense of balance, Tsoi said. "She brought a tremendous awareness of the need for balancing aesthetics and encouraging development where it is appropriate," he said. "Her expertise of the appropriateness of design insofar as it relates to the rest of Arlington will be dearly missed."



FILE PHOTO
Margaret Spengler

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COLLEGE GUIDANCE

The Guidance Office/Career Center is open daily Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There are many college information videos and catalogs available to students and parents. The Guidance Department has two new resource guides for students and parents: (1) Updated College Profiles and 2) Scholarships offered by individual colleges. To use these resources please see Mrs. Fischer.

CSS/Financial Aid Profile and F.A.S.A. (Free Applications for Federal Student Aid) available in the Main Guidance Office.

Financial Aid Resources — Higher Education Information Center in the Boston Public Library 1-800-442-1171, Mass. Educational Financing Authority (800) 842-1531, Student Financial Assistance Programs, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (800) 433-3243.

Apply! 99 — Applications for hundreds of colleges and universities on CD ROM for Windows 95/98 and Macintosh are now available in Main Guidance. COLLEGE LINK is also available.

Financial Aid Hot Lines — Higher Education Information Center in Boston Public Library (800) 442-1171; Mass. Educational Financing Authority (800) 842-1531; Student Financial Assistance Programs, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), (800) 433-3243.

AHS Preliminary Scholarship Forms — available through English classes. Return form with necessary signatures to Ms. Gorman in the Main Office then pick up scholarship application. Completed application (green form) due by Feb. 10.

Arlington Town Scholarship Applications — (Dollars for Scholars) are available in Guidance Office. Due March 1.

AFCEA Fellowship Award Applications — for \$1000 scholarship and compensated 10-week summer work program at a 128/495-based company available from Ms. Gorman in Main Office. Applicants should be in the top 10 percent of the class and be willing to commit to the summer component.

National Association of Asian American Professionals — announces the 1999 Significant Achievement and Future Leadership Awards. Greater Boston high school seniors of Asian descent are recognized for their leadership, achievements and academic excellence. Applications, which must be postmarked on or before Saturday, Feb. 20, available in Guidance Office,

National Kidney Foundation — announces two awards: The Science Summer Research Award and the Post-Secondary Education Academic Award. The Science Summer Research Award goes to five minority status students currently living in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. They will be awarded the opportunity to work as an intern in a laboratory during the summer months of 1999. A maximum of two students from any high school may apply. Students will be awarded \$2,000 for their full time participation in this program over an 8 to 10-week period. Deadline is Feb. 15.

The Post Secondary Education Academic Award gives \$700 to 12 graduating seniors from the states of Massachusetts and Rhode Island for the academic year 1999-2000 for a post-secondary educational program. Students must have kidney disease or be an immediate relative of someone with kidney disease. Deadline is

March 31. Applications available with Mrs. Fischer in Guidance Office.

CASHE - For Your Education — EDTECH is pleased to announce CASHE for free on the Internet. CASE is a national financial aid clearing house of information including thousand of private scholarships, grants, tuition waivers, internships, fellowships and loans. Sponsored by Sallie Mae, EDTECH and The American Legion is one of the most respected financial aid resources available. For information...www.cashe.com or www.salliemae.com.

Kaplan/Newseek "My Turn" Essay Competition — Ten outstanding young writers will be awarded \$1,000. All high school students are eligible to enter. Call Kaplan at 1-800-KAP-TEST or visit Kaplan's website at www.kaplan.com/essay. Entry form also available in the Guidance Department.

Kaplan Sponsors Free Orientation Workshop — For parents and students, topics discussed will include: competitive PSAT and SAT scores, college admission information and test-taking strategies. This will be held at Arlington High School Thursday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m.

Informative New Web Site — from U.S. Department of Education. The Project EASI web site (EASI.ED.GOV) assists prospective college students and their families in planning for education beyond high school.

Frontiers of Science and Engineering 1999 — A lecture series for high school juniors interested in math, science and engineering. All lectures will be held in the Davies Auditorium of Beeton Center of Yale University. Applications are available in Main Guidance or by e-mail: vivian.smart@yale.edu. Applications must be received by Friday, Jan. 29.

Open Houses/Information Sessions

Loyola College, Baltimore, Md. — College Day: Saturday, Feb. 6. For information or reservations call 1-800-221-9107.

Castleton State, Vt. — Saturday Group Information Sessions are available on January 30, March 13, March 27 and April 24. Their office is open to "Take a Tour" and meet with a member of their admissions staff. If interested call ahead at 1-800-639-8521.

Lehigh University (Pa.) — Jan. 23 meet with representatives. Call (800) 521-7642.

Johnson & Wales (R.I.) — Jan. 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for information call (800) 342-5598.

Colleges of the Fenway-Career Fair '99 — Emmanuel College, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Allied Health, Simmons College, Wentworth Institute of Technology and Wheelock College are hosting a Career Fair on Thursday, March 18 at Wentworth Institute of Technology at the Tansey Gymnasium from 3 to 7 p.m. Registration is \$50. Call Patricia Piquette at (617) 989-4108 for information.

Buckingham Browne & Nichols Summer Opportunities Fair — Sunday, Feb. 7, 1-4 p.m. BB&N Upper School Campus Gymnasium. Call (617) 558-7005.

Concord-Carlisle High School Summer Opportunities Fair — Monday, Feb. 8, 7 to 9 p.m. (snow date, Feb. 9). Call Janet Franklin (978) 371-2715.

Laboure College Radiation Therapy Technology Open House — today, 5:30 p.m. Learn about opportunities available to you in this field! Call Deborah Curtin (617) 296-8300, ext. 4039.

Hanscom Air Force Base Wives' Club Scholarship — Eligible applicants include students who hold a valid military ID card as a dependent of a retired, deceased, or current active duty military member in any branch of service. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,500. Application package located in Guidance Department. An "official" transcript is required.

The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts Independent of Odd Fellows (Memorial Scholarship) — A \$500 scholarship to qualified seniors. Applications available in Guidance Department. Deadline is March 10.

Patriots Trail Girl Scout Council's Annual President's Scholarship Award — Award of \$1,000 is given to a graduating senior Girl Scout in recognition of her leadership within the community. Applications in Guidance Department.

The Rose Scholarship (Regaining One's Self-Esteem) — Fund is seeking applicants for a full-tuition scholarship to Northeastern University to be awarded to a person who has suffered or seen sexual, physical, or emotional abuse.

Patriot's owner, Robert Kraft and The New England Patriot's Foundation have agreed to donate \$10,000 a year to the scholarship fund and Northeastern will match the contribution.

Applications are available by writing The ROSE Fund/The New England Patriots' ROSE Scholarship, 186 South Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02111 or by calling (617) 482-5400.

Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America — Two \$500 scholarships are available to high school juniors with asthma or significant allergies who plan to begin higher education after high school and who have attained a level of excellence in academic and/or extra-curricular activity, and who submit complete applications postmarked by Feb. 1, 1999. Applications available in the Guidance Department.

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